

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 4 has been amended to overcome 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, rejection. As such, the Applicant respectfully request that the rejection to claim 4 and its dependent claims 5-8 and 14-16 be withdrawn. Claims 1-8, 14-17, 21-24, 26, and 28-32 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The office action rejected the pending claims as being anticipated and/or obvious in view of Darbee et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,552,917. Darbee discloses two pushbutton steps for programming a macro to perform a particular function. For instance, Figure 18A of Darbee shows that in step 2, the "DO" button is pressed, then in step 3, another assigned key is pressed to assign this key for the macro command. In subsequent steps, sequence of desired keys are entered to set up the function. See Column 11, lines 60-64. To execute the macro, Figure 18B shows the two pushbutton steps. In step 1, the "DO" button is pressed to activate the macro; then in step 2, the assign key is pressed to execute the macro. See Column 11, lines 65-67.

In contrast, the claimed invention provides a one-step initiation device or a one-step dedicated button in a remote control for one-step process to send commands to a plurality of electronic devices. Claim 1 of the application provides one-step process by communicably coupling the one-step initiation device with a processor so that when the initiation device is activated the processor encodes an address and a command into a signal for each electronic device in the plurality of electronic devices.

Independent claims 4, 17, 21, 26, and 28 recite a one-step dedicated button when activated sends on or off signal to each of the plurality of electronic devices. Unlike the teachings of Darbee, the one-step dedicated button is preset to perform one function, which is to turn on or off the plurality of electronic devices. That is, the claimed invention provides one-step process by activating the dedicated button to provide the convenience of automatically turning on or off the plurality of electronic devices in one step.

Independent claim 32 recites a one-step dedicated button to turn on the plurality of electronic devices, and another one-step dedicated button to turn off the plurality of electronic devices. Darbee does not teach or suggest one step of turning on the devices or one step of turning off the devices.

With regard to dependent claim 6, the office action notes that Darbee does not teach the remote control having a plurality of transmitters for simultaneously transmitting a plurality of signals to a plurality of devices. However, claim 6 was rejected on the basis that it is an obvious design choice to integrate a plurality of transmitters into the remote control to simultaneously transmit a plurality of signals.

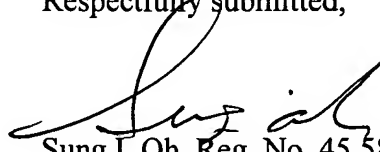
Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 6 for the following reason. Recently, the Federal Circuit held that a conclusion of obviousness by the Examiner from common knowledge and common sense of the person of ordinary skill in the art without "any specific hint or suggestion in a particular reference" is "legal error and arbitrary agency action." See *In re Lee*, 61 USPQ2d 1430 at 1434 (Fed. Cir. 2002). In the instant case, the Applicant respectfully submits that the office action subjectively considered the deficiency in Darbee as being "a matter of design choice" to conclude the limitation of claim 6 to be obvious without pointing to any suggestion or teaching within Darbee or from any other secondary reference. As such, the applicant respectfully submits that the obvious rejection with regard to claim 6 in the office action is improper.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application patentably distinguish over the cited and applied references and are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned representative at (213) 689-5176 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefore.

Respectfully submitted,



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